



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California
January 31, 1974

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FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS -
YUGOSLAVIA

A confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on January 28, 1974, that in a conversation with John Artukovich, a prominent contractor in the Los Angeles area, and the brother of Andrija Artukovich, he obtained some information which he felt was of utmost importance. This information was to the effect that there were between ten and fifteen thousand Soviets located in various port cities in Yugoslavia including Split, Rijeka, and Pula. These Soviets reportedly were from the military and had taken over hotels in the above mentioned cities. The Soviets reportedly were not in uniform and their presence was not widely known. The source of this information is Andrija Artukovich.

Andrija Artukovich, who according to the above mentioned source, is the uncrowned leader of the Croatian Movement in the United States. According to the source, Artukovich has maintained contact with various knowledgeable individuals from within Yugoslavia and is generally aware of current activities in that country.

Artukovich was Minister of Interior of Croatia during World War II, and is alleged to have caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Serbians and Jews during World War II. In 1959 the United States Government refused to

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extradite him to Yugoslavia as a war criminal.

Andrija Artukovich was interviewed by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on January 28, 1974. He confirmed the information which is set forth above. He stated that he received this information in letters from individuals in Yugoslavia whom he declined to identify at this time. He pointed out that these letters were mailed from Austria to him and that in his usual practice after reading letters of this type, he immediately destroys them. Artukovich did state however, that he would probably be receiving some additional information relative to events in Yugoslavia and that if he felt that the letters were pertinent that he would make them available to the FBI.

In addition to relating events relating to the Soviet occupation in the various port cities of Yugoslavia, Artukovich related that it was his belief that in a recent meeting between President Tito of Yugoslavia, and Premier Brezhnev of the Soviet Union, that an agreement was reached that upon Tito's demise that the Soviets would take over Yugoslavia. It was Artukovich's opinion that Tito believes that there will be a revolution in Yugoslavia after his death and that with the presence of the military Soviets such a revolution could be quelled and the Soviets could smoothly take over Yugoslavia.

A second confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that he heard from unrecalled sources in Europe that the Soviets had sent specialists to various Yugoslav air bases and underground installations to familiarize themselves with Yugoslav operations. This source advised that he had no additional information relative to the presence of Soviets within Yugoslavia.

A third confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised he had learned from European sources the identity of whom he could not readily recall, that recently Soviet military ships have appeared at the Yugoslav ports of Split and Rijeka on apparent good will visits.

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He further related that he had heard that the Yugoslav people are very tense and are concerned because of the poor economy in the country, the advanced age of Tito, and the presence of Soviet troops within the country. It was also the understanding of this source that there are an unusually large number of Soviet tourists visiting Yugoslavia.

Other individuals familiar with Yugoslav activities had no information relative to the presence of Soviet personnel in Yugoslavia.

* This Bureau would appreciate receiving any information in your possession which would either confirm or refute the information furnished by Andrija Artukovic and other sources.